

UPPER COLUMBIA – METHOW SUMMER CHINOOK

STOCK STATUS

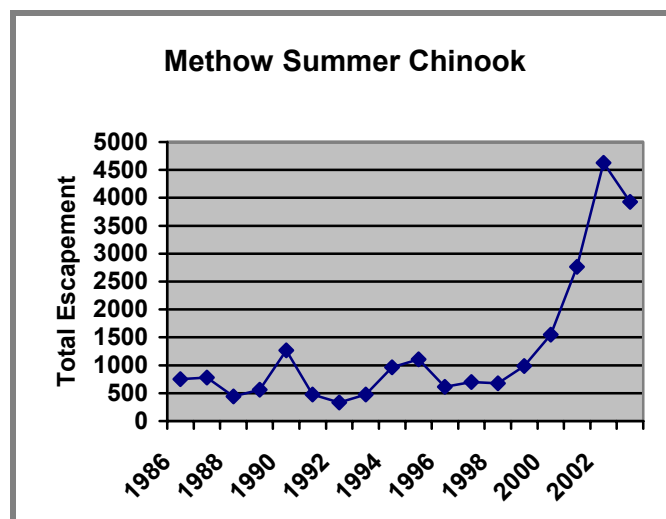
1992 STATUS
Depressed

2002 STATUS
Healthy

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Very Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	753
1987	778
1988	440
1989	561
1990	1,268
1991	474
1992	332
1993	477
1994	961
1995	1,107
1996	615
1997	697
1998	675
1999	986
2000	1,550
2001	2,763
2002	4,630
2003	3,930



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Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts from the confluence with the Columbia upstream to the town of Winthrop (RM 87.2).

There has been no negative trend in spawner abundance levels, so stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002. The increase in escapement in 2001, which is similar to escapements in the 1970s, may reflect the hatchery supplementation program for this stock.

STOCK DEFINITION

Methow summer Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, later river entry timing (July), spawning timing and genetic composition.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the mainstem Methow River from the mouth up to the confluence with the Chewuch River.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from late September to early November and peaks in mid-October.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Methow summer Chinook are genetically very divergent from all upper Columbia Basin spring Chinook stocks, including Methow spring Chinook, and from other Washington Chinook stocks, including summer Chinook in the Similkameen River (Marshall 2002). They are relatively similar to Wenatchee summer Chinook. The contribution of Wells Hatchery summer Chinook to this stock is unknown.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. This stock is a mixture of native summer Chinook and Chinook from the Grande Coulee Fish Maintenance Project (1939 to 1943), which dispersed offspring of fish attempting to return to spawning grounds above Grand Coulee Dam into upper Columbia tributaries below the dam. Winthrop National Fish Hatchery has intermittently released summer Chinook from broodstock collected at Wells Dam on the mainstem Columbia River and at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery in the Wenatchee basin into the Methow basin. The WDFW Eastbank Hatchery has maintained a mixed Methow/Okanogan summer Chinook stock utilizing broodstock collected at Wells Dam on the mainstem Columbia River since 1989. Yearling summer Chinook smolts from this program are acclimated in the Methow basin at the Carlton Acclimation Pond and released into the Methow River.